demonstrations of students and workers were assailed by armed bands that were incited and directed by plain-clothes police agents. In Tomsk, in Siberia, the city theater in which local intellectuals were holding a meeting was surrounded by a mob and set on fire. More than three hundred persons were burned alive or clubbed to death when they tried to escape from the flaming building. But in St. Petersburg the government did nothing. Later the rightist press described the situation as the time "when the government was away." The Tsar and his advisers—military and civilian—were paralyzed by fear of a general mutiny in the army, not yet demobilized after the war. They did not dare use troops against the people and knew no other way to handle the situation. A threat to our control of the University came from another quarter.

The autonomy of the University gave rise to many academic questions that required the joint action of students and faculty members. Faculty leadership passed into the hands of progressive professors, organized in the Academic Union. They were ready to close their eyes to what was going on in the University building after class hours, but regarded with concern our encroachment on academic questions that belonged, according to their conviction, to the jurisdiction of the faculty.

We had organized a Students' Council with somewhat vague responsibilities. It was elected on the basis of proportional representation of political groups, and the S-D list obtained an absolute majority. Then the general meeting voted an academic charter and asked the faculty to reinstate immediately a dozen progressive professors who had been ousted by the reactionary administration. It also decided to apply an "active boycott" against ten professors considered to be reactionaries. I happened to preside at the meeting that voted on the "proscribed list" of unwanted professors. Accordingly I read the list and reported the charges made against each of the candidates. When I came to the name of Professor Georgievsky, a very unpopular teacher of economics, I reported, "Charged of having denounced his colleagues to secret police thirteen times."

With a roar of indignation the meeting voted for his proscription.

A few days later, the president of the University asked the Students' Council to appoint three delegates to meet with a committee of professors. The Council appointed Engel, the favorite chairman of the general meetings, me, and the gnome who had accepted me a few weeks earlier into the S-D party.

We were pleasantly surprised by the composition of the professors' committee, which included Professor Pokrovsky, a brilliant and popular teacher of law, and two equally popular members of the history department. But a surprise of another kind waited for us when Po-